

## CHAPTER 4 - FOREST SERVICE PEST SUPPRESSION ASSISTANCE AT CIVIL WORKS WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

4-1. Purpose. This chapter establishes guidance for consistent U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (civil works) involvement under the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) for the conduct of forest insect and disease suppression on lands administered by the U.S. Department of Defense.

### 4-2. Guidance.

a. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Under the MOA signed in 1990 by the USDA Forest Service and the DoD, the signers agreed to cooperate fully to prevent and suppress damaging forest insect and disease outbreaks. The MOA is Appendix I to this guidance.

(1) Cooperation shall be in accordance with the MOA. The requirements are mandatory for those districts seeking pest suppression funding support from the USDA Forest Service. Program participation remains, however, voluntary.

(2) The Secretaries of the USDA and the DoD have authorized their respective agencies concerned with the suppression of forest insects and diseases to develop and execute coordinated work programs and projects.

(3) In order to accomplish the responsibilities assigned by this MOA, Corps MSCs and Districts are encouraged to seek technical assistance from the USDA Forest Service, Forest Pest Management (FPM) Office that services their particular area. See Appendix J for the appropriate FPM Office.

### b. District Coordination.

(1) District Point of Contact (POC). Each participating district shall designate a POC to address all matters relating to forest pest surveillance and suppression on civil works projects. The POC shall coordinate with higher authority and with regional representatives of the USDA Forest Service on all forest pest problems which may require suppression of forest insect infestations and diseases, including gypsy moth, douglas fir, tussock moth, spruce budworm, hemlock wooly adelgid, dutch elm bark beetle, southern pine beetle, and others. All MOA reports associated with forest pest surveillance and suppression programs at civil works projects shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the guidelines provided in the paragraph 4-3 below.

(2) The district POC shall request assistance in a timely manner from the nearest Forest Service Regional FPM Office, if the need for forest pest or disease suppression under this program is anticipated in the upcoming year. The criteria outlined in section 4.b.(4) of the MOA shall determine whether suppression activity is appropriate. Suppression may consist of biological, chemical, or mechanical treatments or techniques, or combinations of these. Procedures for developing a "Pest Management Project Plan," using Forest Service Form FS-3400-2 are presented in Appendix K.

c. Training.

Under the terms of the MOA, the USDA Forest Service is responsible for providing training opportunities for DoD personnel in techniques for the prevention, detection and suppression of destructive forest insects and diseases. The district POC is responsible for determining USACE personnel training needs on an annual basis. Personnel involved in managing forest resources at civil works projects should be selected for training. This training should be listed in the employee's Individual Development Plan. The district POC shall request such training from the Regional FPM Office of the Forest Service far enough in advance that it may be included in the District Annual Training Needs Survey. Guidance on requesting and funding of training is provided in Appendix I; general pest management program guidance is provided in ER 1130-2-540, Chapter 3, Pest Control Program for Civil Works Projects.

4-3. Reporting.

a. The district POC shall:

(1) Prepare a "Forest Pest Management Project Proposal" (FS-3400-2) for each civil works project where support for suppression activity under this program is requested. These forms are available from the FPM Office and a sample may be found at Appendix K to this guidance. Include in each proposal the results of USDA Forest Service field evaluations, if these are available. If not available, then Corps provided biological evaluations (see paragraph d. below) supporting the proposals for suppression should be attached to the FS-3400-2 forms, when the Corps has the expertise to conduct such evaluations.

(2) Submit District prioritized project proposals (on forms FS-3400-2) to MSC offices not later than 1 September of the year preceding the fiscal year in which suppression is planned. A courtesy copy of these proposals should be forwarded to the appropriate FPM Office.

(3) Provide the results of any forest pest suppression activities undertaken as part of this program during the current fiscal year using the "Forest Pest Suppression Accomplishment Form", Appendix L to this pamphlet. These forms should be submitted to MSCs concurrently with the project proposals forms and not later than 1 September.

b. MSCs shall review and consolidate District proposals, and submit proposals and prior year accomplishment results to HQUSACE (CECW-ON), not later than 15 October.

c. HQUSACE (CECW-ON) will submit a Corps-wide prioritized list of project proposals to the Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB) for funding consideration, by 1 November.

d. Biological Evaluation. This appraisal assesses current pest infestation significance, and projected significance with and without suppression activities. The Biological Evaluation also includes a discussion of alternative pest management tactics.

4-4. Funding. The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, PL 95-313, authorizes the USDA Forest Service to allocate funds to other Federal land management agencies for suppression of forest insect infestation and disease epidemics.

a. Corps suppression project proposals will be prioritized by the AFPMB along with other DoD components' requests. A single DoD funding request will then be presented to the Forest Service by 15 November each year.

b. Funds will be allocated to DoD agencies based on USDA Forest Service evaluation, DoD prioritization and available funding.

c. The USDA Forest Service will then transfer funds through the Treasury Department into "no year" accounts for administration by the participating DoD agencies. Funds will be transferred in January of each year.

d. When HQUSACE is notified that pest suppression funds have been placed in the Corps of Engineers Treasury account, the Corps Districts will be notified of their allotment with a "Work Allowance Letter." Appendix M to this guidance contains a sample letter. Actual receipt of funds by the District will be accomplished with a "Funding Authorization Document (FAD)" through Resource Management Office channels.

e. Districts may then accomplish the approved pest suppression activities either by contract, as part of a state administered program, or in some cases by transferring funds to a local USDA Forest Service organization.

f. Lack of USDA Forest Service funding for a particular Corps suppression project does not prohibit Corps funding of the project using Operation and Maintenance, General funds if good stewardship practices so dictate. An example would be a sudden forest insect infestation or outbreak of disease requiring immediate suppression. In such cases, Operation and Maintenance, General funds may be used in lieu of USDA Forest Service funds.

g. Appendix N lists the milestones for Forest Pest Suppression Projects as established by the Armed Forces Pest Management Board.